



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

County Counsel
Director of Health Services

At its meeting held September 7, 2004, the Board took the following action:

87-A

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“On August 19, 2004, Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) announced its decision to close the Northridge Hospital Medical Center - Sherman Way campus located at 14500 Sherman Circle Drive, Van Nuys, CA, by the end of this year. The 209-bed facility is one of the oldest hospitals in San Fernando Valley, and has approximately 25,000 emergency department visits per year. Northridge Hospital Medical Center, as a Disproportionate Share Hospital, serves a large number of low-income, uninsured and Medi-Cal patients.

“The announcement to close Northridge Hospital Medical Center - Sherman Way campus, comes seven months after Tenet Healthcare Corporation’s announcement to divest 27 hospitals by December 2004, 14 of which are located in Los Angeles County and have emergency departments.

“CHW has developed a plan to transfer patient services from Northridge Hospital Medical Center’s Sherman Way campus to Valley Presbyterian Hospital, located two miles away in Van Nuys, prior to the closure. However, the loss of another emergency room in Los Angeles County further erodes the County’s Emergency Medical Service (EMS) system. Patient bottlenecking in emergency departments will be seen not only in the San Fernando Valley, but throughout the County, at large.

(Continued on Page 2)

87-A (Continued)

“For this reason, it is important for the Board to understand the impact of the closure of Northridge Hospital Medical Center - Sherman Way campus on the County’s healthcare system and in the larger community. It is also particularly important to understand the closure’s impact on access to perinatal services among the Medi-Cal and medically indigent population in the area, including the potential role of County facilities in this regard.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Director of Health Services and County Counsel to take the necessary steps to ensure Catholic Healthcare West and Northridge Hospital Medical Center - Sherman Way comply with all required public notifications to the community, health plans, and health plan enrollees regarding the closure of Northridge Hospital Medical Center - Sherman Way;
2. Requested the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission to immediately schedule a public hearing on the closure of the Northridge Hospital Medical Center which should be held in the community of Van Nuys to ensure maximum participation of the surrounding communities and residents of San Fernando Valley; and that representatives from Catholic Healthcare West, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, and other appropriate stakeholders participate in the public hearing;
3. Instructed the Emergency Medical Services Agency, Department of Health Services, to write an Impact Evaluation Study as required by law; and
4. Requested the Director of Health Services and the EMS Commission to report back to the Board within 60 days with findings and recommendations.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency

Letter sent to:

Chair, Emergency Medical Services Commission